

Website: Riverratgazette.com

Skip's Corner by Skip Couch

My First Trip To Tobermory, Ontario

Located on the Bruce Peninsula along the shores of Lake Huron, Tobermory, Ontario, is known for its crystal-clear waters, historic shipwrecks, and world-class freshwater diving. Often called the "Scuba Diving Capital of Canada," it attracts divers from around the world seeking adventure beneath the surface.

The first trip to Tobermory, I called ahead and made reservations for a boat charter. We arrived in the evening and set up camp at Big Tub Harbor Campsite.

In the morning on day one, I went down to the dock and met the boat captain I had booked the charter with. The boat was a 35-foot wooden vessel. The captain was very old but very knowledgeable about the area.

On our first trip out, we dove on the underwater habitat called Sublimnos. The second dive took us down to the caves. On the third dive of that day, we dove the Wetmore.

At Sublimnos, we had an underwater telephone set up. Two people could enter the habitat, purge their regulators, and then talk to the surface. I had brought the phone setup with us. The captain got a big kick out of talking with us underwater.

When we finished the first dive, I got back on the boat and looked into the engine room. The captain had the engine completely torn apart. I figured we would need a tow back to shore. The captain said, "Don't worry about it, sonny. You go use your next tank of air. I'm just doing a valve job. I'll have it ready when you get done."

When we climbed back on board after the dive, the entire engine was back together and running.

That was my first of many trips to Tobermory. Next time, I'll tell you about another trip to that area.

Clayton Independent-
February 14, 1890

Ed Gurnsey, Hubbard Gurnsey and Maurice Marshall, of Grindstone island, crossed the river with a horse and sleigh last Tuesday. This is the first crossing in this manner this winter. The same day J. P. Snider, of Round Island Park, drove up on the ice.

Clayton Independent-
December 25, 1896

The river is clear of ice. The Rock Island light is kept brightly shining each night over the dark waters of the river, to guide passing vessels through the intricate channel adjacent to it. The steam yacht "Sirius," of Alexandria Bay, towing a scow freighted with lumber, passed down on the 17th.

Area Events

February 16-Kids

Cardboard Sled Contest,
Lions Field, Clayton

February 21-Clayton's Mid
Winter Ice Fishing Derby,
French Bay, Clayton

March 13-15-North Country
Goes Green, Cerow Park,
Clayton

March 27-29-1000 Islands
Spring Boat Show, Cerow
Park, Clayton

April 18-1000 Islands
Snowmobile Rally, Cerow
Park, Clayton



February In The Thousand Islands

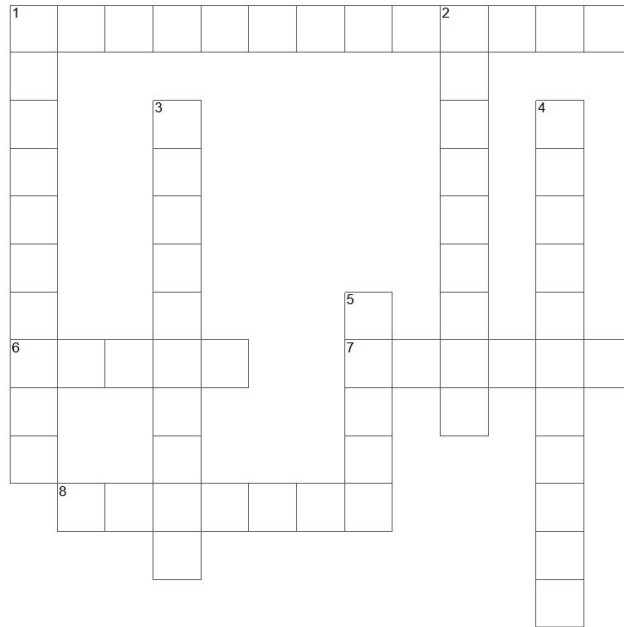
By River Rat Gazette

ACROSS

- 1 The annual winter shutdown of the shipping season
- 6 Tool used to drill holes through ice
- 7 Sudden winter flooding caused when ice blocks the river
- 8 Period in late winter when melting ice becomes unsafe to cross

DOWN

- 1 Whiteout-style winter storm burst off Lake Ontario
- 2 Winter travel gear used on island trails when snow gets deep
- 3 Coast Guard vessel that breaks the ice
- 4 Portable shelters used by anglers on frozen bays
- 5 Common ice-fishing device



Answers to February crossword next month or go to riverratgazette.com to get the answers now.

January Answers

December festival in Clayton featuring illuminated boats on the St. Lawrence: Answer: FIREBOATPARADE

The lighthouse that often appears in beautiful winter pictures: Answer: ROCKISLANDLIGHT

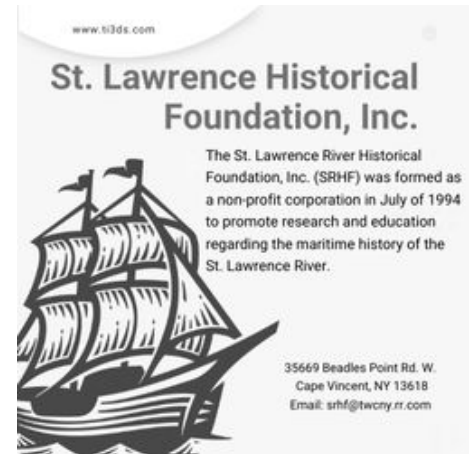
Holiday display at the Thousand Islands Museum featuring decorated trees: Answer: FESTIVALOFTREES

Bird that overwinters on the river and is commonly seen diving for fish in December: Answer: MERGANSER

Shoreline ice buildup that starts forming by mid-December: Answer: SHOREICE

Marker that the Clayton Diving Club pulls for winter each December to prevent ice damage: Answer: DIVEBUOYS

Icy river phenomenon between Clayton and Grindstone: Answer: PANICE



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